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FRANK E. LANGLEY, Publisher

It will be a short legislative harvest in Montpelier.

Events are drifting to a declaration of war between Germany and Italy.

"American girl now a countess." Probably her husband is now a counter-of recent financial acquisitions.

Stowe and Cabot start the year's Old Home week celebrations in Vermont. May there be ever more and more of them—the "old homesteads!"

Certain German officers admit that Austria was caught napping by Russia. Of course, Germany knew all the time that the big drive was coming.

Boston is to lay \$400,000 worth of black granite pavement and the Boston Traveler wants to know whether it is "hard or soft granite." Presumably it is the peckaboo kind, neighbor.

Kings, emperors and other rulers express gratitude to the men who are fighting their battles for them, and well they might, because the soldiers are the ones to gain the least out of the sacrifice.

New Hampshire has sent, among other things, thousands of packages of chewing gum to her soldiers on the Mexican boundary. Times have passed since Vermont had the distinction of being the great gum-chewing state.

The efforts of Commissioner of Agriculture E. S. Brigham to see that a fair deal is given people who buy farms in Vermont are to be commended. That may be made one of the important features of the work of his office if there is no reform in the matter.

The suggestion of the Montpelier Argus that red lights be put on cows in Williamstown gulf to prevent the animals being hit by automobiles is good, but the contemporary leaves the public in the dark as to whether the red lights should be placed on the forward end or headlights or on the rear for tail-lights.

Foreign Minister Von Jagow of Germany declares that Germany is not opposed to the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States and, furthermore, that Germany has no designs of aggression in Brazil, Canada or any part of America. Such a statement will do to file away for reference, but merely for reference.

The shifting of Canadian regiments from the Ypres salient to the Somme region on the western front means undoubtedly that we shall hear of some important fighting and considerable gains by the British troops in the vicinity of the Somme. It means also that a great many Americans will see some of the fiercest fighting of the whole war, as the Canadian troops have large quotas of Americans who either went into Canada for the express purpose of enlisting or who took up arms while temporarily sojourning in the dominion.

The catastrophe aboard the Italian dreadnought Leonardo Da Vinci in a home port was nothing worse than might have been expected aboard any war vessel, whether the controlling nation be at peace or at war. The same thing might have happened on a United States war

vessel—the outbreak of fire in the kitchen of the vessel, followed by the spread of the flames so quickly that the magazines could not be flooded and the vessel beached before a great explosion took place. Hence it is not to be taken as the result of an overt act on the part of any enemy of Italy but rather as a fortuitous circumstance which could not well have been prevented. The loss of approximately 300 Italian seamen is very serious, however, and calls for the exercise of greater caution on board all ships of that navy, as well as of all navies, to the end that accidents, such as that on the Da Vinci might be reduced to a minimum.

PUBLICITY AS AID TO AGRICULTURE

The newspapers of Vermont are making the cow testing associations and the county farm agent associations amount to something. If it was not for the publicity given to both these organizations, their good works would be known to only a very few people. The time is coming when the government will make a special appropriation for this publicity, which it should do.—Waterbury Record.

There is no doubt there is strong element of truth in what the contemporary says about the efficacy of publicity in furthering the work of the county farm bureaus, cow-testing associations and similar organizations now holding a place in the agricultural life of Vermont. The newspapers are giving a great deal of space each week, oftentimes each day, to the end that the aims of the several organizations may be set before the public more generally than would be possible under any other method, and far more expeditiously, too. This space is not grudgingly given because the newspapers know that anything of that nature tends to build up the sections in which they are located, and the building up of the agricultural interests is one of the purposes of the press. That the service is appreciated by those who are directly concerned with the work of the farm bureaus, cow-testing associations and similar organizations goes without saying, else they would not use the space put to their disposal each week.

CURRENT COMMENT

Extra Session Without Pay.

No doubt there will be more or less talk about the expense involved, when Governor Gates calls the legislature into extraordinary session, in order to take care of the pay of the dependents of the soldiers of the First Vermont infantry now serving on the Mexican border. Objectors mainly will talk about the expense, although perhaps others will reveal themselves in a different and more unpleasant role. For the soldiers to meet in Montpelier and vote the money required, it is estimated that some ten to fifteen thousand dollars would be required. That is considerable money, it is granted, but it is not of such size as should cause a shirking on the part of the state from the meeting of an obligation.

As a matter of fact, the expense objection may be an entirely hypothetical one. It may well develop, The Messenger thinks that it should develop, that the expense, instead of mounting into the thousands, will be a nominal one. This certainly would be the case if the members of the legislature should decide that they could contribute their services for this cause without pay.

It would cause The Messenger no little surprise if the members of the legislature turned down a resolution to the effect that they serve without pay. And it would cause The Messenger much more surprise if there were not one man in the legislature who would be ready with such a resolution as soon as the session was under way.

It is more probable than not that the average lawmaker will reason to himself something like this: "Here is an extraordinary case. Something ought to be done in this matter by the state. The boys who went to Mexico were prepared to make the supreme sacrifice if necessary. They thought they were going to war. We thought they were, too, when we sent them forth. It isn't their fault that they are in Eagle Pass instead of on the other side of the Rio Grande. And those they



It's just about an even balance as to which hat you'll need most for this month.

A new straw to brighten up the end of the season (one dollar now) or a new felt to open the fall season.

Both will give the right balance for all occasions.

Straw hats now at half price.

Felt hats, \$2 and \$3.

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Have you taken advantage of the many bargains which we are offering all this month. If you have not, you should at once.

There are many lines in men's, women's and children's shoes that we shall not reorder or that are marked at less than we could buy them for at present market price.

One lot ladies' tan oxfords and pumps at one-half price.

Misses' White Tennis Pumps, Sandals, Play Shoes at cost.

One lot ladies' oxfords in \$3.00 and \$3.50 grades at \$2.15.

Come in to-day and save money.

Rogers' Walk-Over
Boot Shop

left behind are just as much dependent now as if the regiment were on Mexican soil. They made and are making their sacrifices, dear ones at home are also making their sacrifices. I guess I can get along without that \$4 a day for a couple of days or so. Surely the sacrifice I will make will not compare with what the boys in khaki are making every day."

If The Messenger is any judge of human nature in Vermont, this is the attitude the great majority of the members of the legislature will take it won't believe that there is a single member of the legislature who will feel differently until it is too late.

A special session for this matter may be very brief. A complete plan can be laid before each house immediately on its convening. The governor's special committee has inquired carefully into the matter and can submit its findings quickly and adequately. Surely a special session ought not to cause anyone to lose any sleep.—St. Albans Messenger.

AT ODDS OVER UNDERPASS.

City of Rutland and the Rutland R. R. in Jumble Over Money.

Rutland, Aug. 17.—It is up to the Vermont public service commission to decide an underpass fight between the Rutland railway and the city of Rutland, which involves the expenditure of more than \$150,000. The commissioners, R. C. Bacon of Brattleboro, W. A. Dutton of Hardwick and W. R. Warner of Vergennes, were here yesterday considering the question.

Recently the railroad petitioned the commission to close West street, the main thoroughfare, for westbound traffic out of this city, and to send all vehicles via Pine street tunnel, which would have to be widened, and Meadow street, making a circuitous course some quarter of a mile out of the direct line. This would be a \$25,000 proposition, exclusive of land damages.

Friday night the board of aldermen met and passed a resolution denying this petition and calling for an underpass at West street and one at Forest street, which meets it at right angles at the track. Hearing of the opposition, Attorney Edwin W. Lawrence of the Rutland railway, yesterday withdrew the petition to close the highway, but said that the underpasses would cost \$125,000 besides land damages and could not be considered. The petition was dismissed. City Attorney Walter S. Fenton will formally petition the commission to order the two underpasses. Rutland city has four unprotected crossings.

ASKS PRINT PAPER EMBARGO

Resolution Designed to Relieve Present Famine Introduced in Congress.

Washington, Aug. 17.—Proposals to authorize President Wilson to lay an embargo upon exports of print paper to relieve present shortage, until the federal trade commission reports on the paper situation, are contained in a resolution introduced by Representative Hastings of Oklahoma, which was referred to the foreign affairs committee.

CABOT DRAWS PEOPLE BACK

(Continued from first page.)

of the stage. On Sunday Rev. M. W. Hale will conduct old home union services in the Congregational church.

Details of the week's observance are being carefully looked after by a general committee consisting of E. F. Smith, George Laird, Mrs. B. L. Bruce and F. M. Marsh. The picnic committee had for its personnel the following people: Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Pliny Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wheeler and Charles Austin. Sub-committees are working in entire harmony with the central committee to make Old Home week in Cabot worthy of the name.

Among those who are "back home" for the week are: Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Gould and Miss May Paine of Los Angeles, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Willey of Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. M. F. McConnell of Oshkosh, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Orvis Hale of St. Johnsbury, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lamson of Montpelier, Mr. John Barrington of Greenboro, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson of Pittsburg, Pa. Miss Granis of Nashua, N. H. E. Willey and son of Barnet, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shepard of Marshfield, Mrs. Lucy Carrier of New Hampshire, Joshua Gray, George Harvey of Philadelphia, L. S. Collins of Greenboro Bend and Frank Hoyt of Plainfield. Letters have been received from many former residents who were unable to be present.

"GOV." GRAHAM PRESENT

At Old Home Week Celebration Held in Stowe.

Stowe, Aug. 17.—A unique feature of the 16th Stowe annual old home week celebration, "Notch day," was carried out yesterday, when members of several sections of the state Green Mountain club and citizens of Stowe and surrounding towns enjoyed an outing in the celebrated defile in the Green mountain range known as Smugglers' notch. A bountiful picnic dinner was served with hot coffee furnished by the association, after which W. J. English, principal of the Stowe high school, who was called upon by President L. L. Harris to act as toastmaster, introduced as speakers Horace F. Graham of Craftsbury, State Auditor and candidate for governor; Milo B. Higgins, state commissioner of education; James P. Taylor, secretary of the Greater Vermont association; and Rev. J. Q. Angell of Walden, formerly of Stowe. Music was furnished by the Stowe Military band, assisted by two pieces from Montpelier. There were fully 300 people present.

BIG EVENT AT BENNINGTON

At Dedication of Henry W. Putnam Memorial Hospital.

Bennington, Aug. 17.—Fully 3,000 persons, nearly all of them residents of Bennington, gathered about the site of the Henry W. Putnam Memorial hospital yesterday afternoon to witness the exercises in connection with the laying of the cornerstone.

A parade, one of the largest civic demonstrations of its kind since the dedication of the Bennington Battle monument,

preceded the exercises at the foundation. All of the different societies and organizations, the fire department, secret orders and public officials took part in the parade which passed through the principal streets of the village and broke ranks at the hospital site.

Grand officers of the Masonic grand lodge of the state carried out the ritual of the order in the laying of the corner stone. Grand Master H. H. Ross of Rutland presided and was assisted by Deputy Grand Master David A. Elliott of White River Junction, Grand Senior Warden Edwin L. Wells of Lyndonville, Grand Junior Warden Archie S. Harrison of Middlebury, Grand Treasurer Charles W. Titcomb of Proctorsville, Grand Secretary Frank A. Ross of Burlington, Assistant Grand Chaplain W. J. Ballou of Ludlow, Grand Junior Deacon Frank A. Davis of Chester, Grand Senior Steward Edward A. Martin of Burlington, Grand Pursuivant Frederick D. Ranney of North Bennington, Grand Sword Bearer Albert Killam of Burlington and Grand Tyler Henry D. Fillmore of Bennington.

Village President A. W. Braisted presided during the exercises following the laying of the corner stone and which consisted of music by the Bennington City band and three brief addresses. James C. Colgate of New York and a summer resident of Old Bennington, gave the appreciation in behalf of the community. James K. Batchelder of Arlington told the audience how the institution came into existence. Rev. Thomas R. Carty, pastor of St. Francis de Sales church, Bennington, invoked the divine blessing upon the hospital and the work it is destined to accomplish.

The hospital is the gift to Bennington of the late Henry W. Putnam of San Diego, Calif., and his son, Henry W. Putnam, jr., of New York, and prospectively came into existence in October, 1912, when the gravity system owned by the Bennington Water company was presented to the village by its chief stockholder for the purpose of building and endowing the institution.

RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE CALLED ON THE WANE

German Officers Say the Advance Is Halted at Stokhod River But Admit the Austrians Were Caught Napping.

Headquarters of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg's Army, Aug. 17.—"The worst of the Russian offensive is over," one of the highest commanding officers on the eastern front told the United Press yesterday, after a tour of inspection of the Austro-German lines.

Completely halted at the Stokhod river in their effort to reach Kovel, the Russians undaunted by this failure have shifted their attacks southward, always striking against the Austrians.

"The temporary successes of the Russians in the southeast is desperate strategy," said a German officer, "because the faster they advance with their left wing in the southeast, the more they weaken the position of their right wing along the Stokhod."

It is admitted here that the Russians caught the Austrians by surprise at the beginning of the offensive. Aeroplanes reported Russian troops massing, but no one believed the Russians as strong as

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Clean-Up Sale of Ladies' Summer Dresses, at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.75 up

THE VAUGHAN STORE

they have been discovered to be. The Russian tactics kept the Austrians guessing for several weeks, but now the whole Austro-German front is reorganized and the earlier Russian advantages are being overcome.

The fall of Stanislaw and Gorizia were admittedly unpleasant, but viewed strategically have a different meaning, according to German military men. These reverses are completely outweighed by the Russians' failure to reach Kovel and Lemberg. The Germans marvel that they didn't succeed in view of the gigantic English and French blows, but at the critical moment German troops arrived and stiffened the lines east of Kovel.

We bivouacked Tuesday night near the front where the Russians on Aug. 8 attempted a great offensive. I walked for two hours in the front line trenches watching German 11-inch shells bombard the Russians. Maj. Von Cheller, former attaché of the German embassy at Washington, and Capt. P. Behn, for-

mer German consul at Denver, explained the lay of the surrounding country. We also visited the headquarters of Gen. Bernhardt, who is commanding an army on this front, but he was suffering from influenza and unable to receive us.

The night scene at the front was entrancing. The sky was lit by countless great fires, about which the companies were encamped, within a few hundred yards of the Russian positions. The bands played and the soldiers sang. Not a single shot was fired. There is a nightly truce. The Russians occasionally shoot light cartridges to illuminate the fields between the trenches and prevent a surprise attack. Far off in the distance an Austrian battery was pounding the Russian railroads.

The new armies on this front are composed of Polish, German and Austro-Hungarian troops which, officers said, illustrates the new spirit of comradeship and is a sure indication of the strength of the central powers.



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